



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **USDA's National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) underway in NC in preparation for upcoming 2022 Census of Agriculture**

**Raleigh, NC, December 10, 2021** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) mails the [National Agricultural Classification Survey \(NACS\)](#) this month to more than 48,450 potential NC agricultural producers, in preparation for the 2022 Census of Agriculture next year. The NACS will ask survey recipients if they are involved in agricultural activity and for basic farm information. Response to the NACS is required by law for all who receive the questionnaire, even if the recipient is not an active farmer or rancher. Questionnaires can be completed online or by mail. The response deadline is Jan. 24.

“NACS definitely plays a key role in getting a complete count of U.S. agriculture,” said Dee Webb. “As one of the most important early steps to determine who should receive next year's Census of Agriculture, every response to NACS is vital.”

USDA defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold, or are normally sold, during the year. This definition was first used for the 1974 Census of Agriculture and is now consistent across USDA surveys.

“The definition of a farm is broad, and not based on the size of the operation, type of crop or livestock, or other factors,” said Webb. “It can be a suburban or urban rooftop, or a backyard hoop house. It can be large pastures of cattle or fields of corn, as well as a couple horses, alpacas, flowers, honey, fruit, or eggs sold to neighbors, friends, and family. We want every U.S. producer to have the opportunity to share their voice in the ag census.”

The influential Census of Agriculture dataset is used by local and federal governments, educators, researchers, agribusinesses, media, and many more, impacting decisions that affect the lives of every American. Data collection for the 2022 Census of Agriculture begins November 2022.

All information reported to NASS is kept confidential, protected by federal law. For more on confidentiality, read [NASS's Confidentiality Pledge](#). To learn more about NACS and the Census of Agriculture, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus).

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is kept confidential, as required by federal law. Used for statistical purposes only, the information is not published in identifiable form. All NASS reports are available online at [nass.usda.gov/Publications/](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications/). For more information, call the NASS NC Field Office at 919-707-3333.

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*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

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